

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
FIRE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
June 2001

OFFICE OF THE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

Commission Office

The following items were discussed at the June 14, 2001 monthly meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission:

- The Fire Administrator provided an overview of final decisions made by the County Council regarding the FY02 MCFRS Operating Budget.
- Requests from the Fire Board regarding training opportunities and policy development for the Internal Affairs and Community Outreach/Public Information positions were discussed.
- The Commission congratulated Chief Don Flinn of the Silver Spring Volunteer Fire Department, who is leaving the area, after providing many years of fire and rescue service to the community.
- The Fire Administrator appointed a nominating committee for the FRC Vice Chair's position.
- Commissioner Powell was appointed to a one year term to the Local Review Board of the MFSPQB.
- The placement of commercial insurance for the MCFRS was approved. A review will be conducted to determine if changes to the deductible levels are appropriate.
- The Commission approved the advertisement of the *Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct* regulation until July 27, 2001, with comments to be reviewed by the HRST Committee and sent to the FRC for action at the August 9, 2001 FRC meeting.
- Reallocation requests of Senator Amoss funds from the Gaithersburg-Washington Grove VFD and the Kensington VFD were approved.
- District Chief Ey provided an update on the implementation of the Water Supply report and the Strategic Planning process.
- The *Administration of the LOSAP Program* regulation was approved.

Research and Planning

Emergency Management

CAO Briefing – Planning underway for annual Briefing of the CAO on Emergency Management issues. Briefing will be held August 8th at the City of Rockville Council chamber. School violence exercise will be critiqued at meeting. Other topics of discussion will be annual work program, preparedness for potential International Monetary Fund activation this fall, and coordination issues for mass casualty events. Hurricane preparedness and activation strategies for season which is predicted to be more active than last year, especially in August-September.

School Violence Exercise – Planning in final stages for August 1st field and EOC exercise. EMG Exercise Design Team has been meeting with school officials and school ERT and on site emergency plans will be tested. The

EOC will focus on Critical Incident Stress Management issues such as memorial services, grieving communities, media relations, CISM teams from DHHS, MCFRS, and Red Cross, and community reaction to violence in schools. Field exercise will be conducted at Northwest High School, and will involve police rapid entry team and testing of Unified Command Post for multi-agency response.

Manhole Fires – Meeting held July 5th with senior PEPCO officials, and representatives from other utilities, Fire and Rescue, Public Works, WSSC, and other agencies to review operational response to manhole fires, assess risk, and plan for future operational challenges.

DMORT - K. Henning helped instruct 3 day FEMA Mass Fatality Course in Queen Annes County with representatives from federal Disaster Mortuary Operational Team (DMORT), DC Funeral Directors Association, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, and Anne Arundel Fire Department Specialty Teams. Emphasis on handling of deceased from transportation collisions such as air and rail crashes. Montgomery County has requested a similar class for next spring.

LEPC – Minutes prepared for quarterly meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Council for Hazardous Materials to be held July 19th. Haz-Mat team scheduled to bring vehicle for demonstration.

Grants – Closed out federal/state training grant from the Office of Justice Programs for \$2450 for terrorism preparedness/exercise held in April. We applied for and were approved for a SARA training grant under hazardous materials for \$5958 which will be used by the Haz-Mat team. We closed out the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program grant for \$2375 to prepare a flood awareness brochure. The Flood/Flash Flood brochure is now available in hard copy and also on webpage. Another grant is still pending to identify properties in the danger reach areas of the county's dam using GIS. Students from Towson State University and Maryland Dept. of the Environment are part of the partnership with OEM office to complete project using federal grant funds.

Animals in Disaster –Comments provided on regional Animal Services annex through Council of Govts. Staff have been attending State Animal Disaster Planning Advisory Committee (ADPAC) meetings. Presentations on Hoof and Mouth disease, planning for disposal of dead animals, and isolation plans have been discussed. Legal and psychological concerns on quarantines, incineration, composting, and burial under discussion. Coordinating with Solid Waste Services Division and Animal Service Divisions. On-going coordination with Red Cross and Humane Society of US on animal rescue and pet shelter issues. Questionnaire drafted to be sent to all private schools who have volunteered to be shelters to ask if they will also consider an extension for a pet shelter.

Red Cross Notifications – Meeting held with ECC District Chief Patullo, District Chief Buddy Ey, OEM Kathee Henning, and Red Cross Ginny Hogan to review notification procedures and back-up strategies while Red Cross phone system under replacement.

Allied Group – Participated in meeting with Police ECC, Fire ECC, Traffic Management Center, and OEM on coordination of joint areas and issues for new facility at Quince Orchard. On-going committee to share operational information, conduct joint training, and work out logistical support for daily maintenance and use of building.

Annexes – Working with OMB's P. Weeda on consolidation and elimination of old Administrative Procedures which have become outdated by more recent Emergency Operations Plan chapters. T. Jarboe coordinating committee on revisions to Terrorism Annex. K. Talbott working with Shelter Task Force and other agencies on Animal Services Annex. Hurricane Annex updated. Donations Management and Mass Care Annexes out for comment to address expanded role for Liquor Control to provide trucks for food service in lieu of DPW&T trucks. EOP will be distributed at annual CAO briefing for first time in CD ROM format rather than hardcopy updates.

e-Montgomery – Staff have been meeting almost weekly with e-Montgomery Office of Emergency Management for migration of HazLink to electronic access.

Community Education Safety Section

- Attended various Staff meetings.
- Replied, by phone or email, to 41 citizen, 51 FD, & 17 "other" (media, county gov't) inquires.
- Met with various department staff and members totaling 10 hours.
- Composed various Memos and Safety Tips for dissemination to all work locations.
- Attend MSFA Convention for 2 days.
- Worked on Flashover pub Ed video. (3 hours)
- Community Safety Education Steering Committee meetings. 2 hours.
- Scheduled various community education events and classes (7 hours).
- Dealt with various personnel and program issues relating to community safety.
- Various correspondences composed and disseminated. (8 hours)
- Discussed "Masters of Disaster" program with several persons. (2 hours)
- Assisted Traffic Safety Program Manager with Seat Belt survey (5 hours).
- Reviewed bids, proposals, and rough draft's for various education literature and items. (2 hours)
- Developed rough draft Community Safety Education Flow Chart.
- Meeting re International Festival coordination. (1 hours)
- Fire Safety lectures for school, civic, and business groups impacting over 185 people.
- Pedestrian Safety Blue Ribbon Panel meeting proposal. 3 hours.
- Meeting with Life Safety on Fire Evacuation program for EOB (2 hours).
- Taped MCFRS Today video.
- Office move coordination related to 12th floor renovation (4 hours).
- Operation Extinguish management. (1 hour)
- Assisted with Press Conference relating to Firework Safety (3 hours).
- All MCFRS participated in CPSC "Recall Round Up."
- Post Incident Community Intervention Program (a.k.a. After The Fire) walk in several neighborhoods involving many MCFRS stations and personnel.

- Approximately, 400 homes visited with approximately 800 citizen's impacted.
- Attended CPSS meeting (3 hours).
 - Various Fire Safety lectures, Health Fairs, Community Events, and Career Day presentations to various groups and schools by this office and some stations. 300 kids and 200 adults impacted.
 - CPSS Tech's participated in big Fitzgerald's Car Seat Check, which saw well over 600 vehicle's come in to be checked.

Corporate Development Services:

Automation Section

Fleet and Facilities Section

Fleet Activities

- Continued contract management efforts for the acquisition of replacement EMS units, a total of four with FY 01 funds.
- Completed contract negotiations with Pierce for the acquisition of four pumpers.
- Completed contract negotiations with Pierce for the acquisition of one aerial tower.
- Continued participation in the PS 2000 project relating to mobile voice and data equipment.

Facilities Activities

- Attended progress meetings for the Sandy Spring Fire Station 4 construction project. Substantial completion is due August 2001.
- Represented the fire/rescue service at the Montgomery County Planning Board re: Collapse Rescue Team building. Construction has begun and substantial completion is due September 2001.
- Performed project tasks for the Takoma Park Fire Station 2 replacement project, including station design activities and temporary site activities. The schematic floor plans are nearing completion. Related processes are in place.
- Obtained bids to remodeling of "old FS #25" located on Georgia Avenue. The building will continue to be used for fire/rescue purposes after the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department has vacated it.
- Started the FY 03-08 Capital Improvements Program process.

Property Section

DIVISION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Attended the quarterly Leadership Forum at the UMSG

Attended the water implementation study meeting

Attended a special meeting regarding acquisition of fire –rescue vehicles

Attended the Metro Joint Supervisory Training course at Metro Headquarters

Met with all utility representatives in a quarterly meeting regarding their updated capabilities

Assembled the review committee for the LOSAP Study bids

Had a variety of meetings, etc., to finalize the contract award for the LOSAP Study; also met with the new vendor

Met with the Fire Administrator and Chiefs Hinde and Seavey on various committee issues

Attended the MSFA convention

Attended the Senior Staff meeting

Met with the Fire Administrator, Chief Strock, Dep. Chief Allwang and the Internal Affairs Administrator on various issues

Attended “Hell Night” at the PSTA

Met with the President and Chief of the KVFD, Chief Strock and Dep. Chief Allwang regarding staffing issues

Attending the viewing and church services for Chief Cameron

Participated in the graduation of the newest rookie class and six combination classes (Essentials, Paramedic and EMT) at the UMSG

Attended the Fire Board, Human Relations, Safety and Training, FRC, Fire-Rescue Association, Operations and Chiefs Committees meetings

Mediated personal, personnel and/or sensitive issues with various LFRDs, etc.

DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

BUREAU OF OPERATIONS

Administration

Safety

Specialty Teams

Collapse Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue:

A total of (11) responses were handled by HIRT for the June reporting period, involving an estimated on-scene time of 25.5 hours. The majority of responses occurred in the District I and 5 response areas involving DOT hazard class 3 materials.

At the conclusion of the reporting period, HIRT personnel from A, B and C Shifts completed the NFPA 472 Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute Hazardous Materials Technician Program and attended the IAFC Hazardous Materials Conference in Hunt Valley, Maryland. HIRT personnel also participated as instructors for the IAFCV HAZMAT Conference.

In cooperation with the Maryland Department of the Environment, CONVISTA Chemical Company, HIRT and Chief Clemens, an MC307 Chemical Cargo Tank Truck has been donated to the PSTA for HazMat, confined space rescue and first responder training. A second cargo tank truck (MC306 Gasoline Tanker) is scheduled to be donated to the PSTA. Washington County will be donating several tote containers for training purposes.

Swiftwater Rescue Team

Hazardous Materials Response Team

River Rescue Team

BUREAU OF PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES

Administration

Labor Relations Section established a full-time recruiter position.

Wellness

Recruitment/CPAT

Conducted an intensive radio and newspaper advertising campaign for the June, 2001 Firefighter/Rescuer application period.

CPAT mentoring was held on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays (applicants for RC20). On average, 15-20 candidates participate.

Recruiting representatives attended:

- The International Heritage Day celebration in Silver Spring
- A job and employment fair at the Harry Grove Stadium in Frederick, Md.
- The WKYS "Street Jam" employment fair in Washington, D.C.
- The Lincoln Park Day celebration

Communications

District Chief Patullo was the guest speaker at the weekly meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Rockville. PS2000 was the topic of the speech.

District Chief Patullo and Captain Fleming attended the initial meeting of the Region 20, 700 MHz, public safety committee. Region 20 comprises of Maryland, Northern Virginia, and Washington, D.C. The group elected to "Opt In" for the regional planning, regional boundaries, and regional coordination of the future 700 MHz public safety system.

Lt. Marcoplus and his shift were interviewed and filmed by MSNBC, which will be part of a one-hour television special on Railroad Safety. The special will feature the Silver Spring railroad collision involving Conrail and MARC trains.

Master Firefighter Pete Corte has successfully completed his call taken/dispatched training and is now considered staffing on Shift #1.

The Emergency Communications Center participated in the Recruit Class 19 "Hell Night", Firefighter Chris German was at the PSTA as the dispatcher for the event.

Training has started for the new Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) program. The Medical Priorities protocol will be integrated in the new CAD system. Training should be completed by the end of July 01.

Marilyn Browning is continuing work on the Communications Directory and plans to distribute it in August 01. If you need to add, change, and delete information from this document, please contact Marilyn at 240.777.0729, no later than the end of July 01.

Training

A graduation ceremony for the 37 members of Recruit Class #19 was held at 1:00pm on Friday, June 29th in the Auditorium of the University of Maryland Shady Grove Center.

A graduation ceremony for members of EMT-B Basic #288, #289, #290, EMT-Paramedic Classes #21, #22 and Essentials of Firefighting #01-2, was held in the Auditorium of the University of Maryland Shady Grove Center at 7:00pm on Friday, June 29th.

Exams completed for Emergency Vehicle Driver Testing for June:

Written	9
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Practical	9
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Total exams completed for Emergency Vehicle Driver Testing for FY01:

Written	119
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Practical	122
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In-Service Training Program “Rapid Intervention Company Training” sessions were held in June with 68 DFRS students and 2 LFRD students attending.

Four career EMT-Paramedics were awarded charge status in June.

BUREAU OF LIFE SAFETY SERVICES

Fire Code Enforcement

Fire and Explosive Investigation

In June, Fire and Explosive Investigators investigated 9 accidental fires and 6 criminal fire related incidents. The Bomb Squad responded to a total of 10 explosive incidents, of these incidents two were for suspicious packages. The total estimated dollar loss for the above incidents was \$ 4,692,550 for accidental fires and \$ 15,000 for criminal fire related incidents.

On June first the Bomb Squad responded for the report of a pipe bomb in a house in the Derwood community. Investigators did find a device on the kitchen table. The house and surrounding homes were evacuated and assistance was requested from ATF. During the course of this incident four more devices were located and removed from the house. All of the devices were rendered safe. A 16 year old boy was arrested and prosecuted for the possession and manufacturing of the destructive devices and with the destruction of a mail box which was blown up by one of his devices the end of May.

Lt. Shaw and his new canine partner Hank started this month. Both completed over 200 hours of training at the ATF facility in Front Royal VA.